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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The Department of Justice wants to hear from the Consumer on this ongoing issue. In my view, the world is a much better place because of the advances Microsoft has made over the past few years. Do they profit handsomely from it? Of course, but as critics ignore, these profits are plowed back into research and development for even better progress and products for the future. In fact over the past 12 month period between September 30, 2001 and September 30, 2000, over \$4.4 billion was expended on R&D by Microsoft, to make better products to make my life easier. If you want a compare and contrast, how about Drug Companies that have a similar Research & Development and profitability models. Lets take a look at Merck whom has plowed \$2.4 billion into R&D over the same 12 month period. Yet for a 1 month supply of 40 mg Zocor (30 tablets), its about the same price as a copy of Windows XP. So Why aren't you going after all the Drug companies that are apparently "Gouging" consumers at this rate on a monthly basis? You think there aren't sales reps out there that are pushing Zocor on Doctors because of Merck/Medco's clout?

In regards to the proposed settlement to fund R&D for underprivileged Schools. If the DOJ and states can make this go away with such a common sense solution, than by all means do it! I could care less If I get my \$10.00 check in the mail at some undetermined point in the future to repay me for the "Harm" and "Unjust Pricing" that I have incurred. If you keep listening to all of Microsoft's competitors that are dragging you down their arcane path, then you are all fools. They have no interest in the consumer, they only have an interest (as would any management team or executive) in their business and to building Shareholder Value. If they can do that with the governments help, than they would be fools for not taking the handout!